

## ***Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare***

### ***Discussion***

Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare (EMW) is the over-arching concept that describes how the Marine Corps fulfills its national security role now and in the future. It provides a capstone statement of Marine Corps methods of organization, deployment, and employment. The concept is a larger set that includes ***Operational Maneuver From the Sea (OMFTS)*** and serves three purposes: operationalize the Corps' vision of the future contained in ***Marine Corps Strategy 21***; expand the Corps' family of warfighting concepts to address the full spectrum of engagement; and, most importantly, describe the general manner in which the Marine Corps, in partnership with the Navy, conducts operations today and will conduct operations tomorrow, across the full operational continuum. EMW is underwritten by the Corps' philosophy of maneuver warfare and expeditionary culture, and it has four distinguishing characteristics; operations other than war; expeditionary operations from a sea-base; ship-to-objective maneuver operations; and sustained operations ashore.

### ***Organization***

Marines organize using building blocks of capabilities that are scalable to any required level. From their first day in the Corps, all Marines are taught to think innovatively as individuals, while acting cohesively as members of the integrated combined arms team — the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF). Marines from Private to General have a common yet highly creative way of looking at operational problems that facilitates rapid, parallel planning, and swift decisive execution — reaching from home station to forward deployed locations. The result is an organization that can think “on the run,” deciding among alternative organizational, deployment, and employment options, and, once deployed, able to meet new and unexpected challenges without reorganization. The flexible and adaptable Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) is the leading edge of the more robust crisis capabilities of the Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB), both of which are contained within the major warfighting power of the Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF).

### ***Deployment***

Marines deploy either upon Navy amphibious assault shipping, or by the use of the Corps' own Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) ships, or strategic air or sealift. This strategic agility preserves options and enables the

Joint force commander to use Marines to exploit adversary vulnerabilities. With our Navy shipmates to help assure access, we can use the international commons of the sea as a maneuver space, seabase, and sanctuary for command and control, logistics, and fires support, providing a fundamental and powerful asymmetric advantage.

### ***Employment***

Marines are employed across the spectrum of conflict, including peacetime training and engagement, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping, and the full range of warfighting. Once clear lines between “fighting” and “helping” now often appear blurred. Marines, however, have a history of operations that have made us very aware of regional and cultural differences. The standard training, equipping, and expeditionary outlook of individual Marines in these forces enables them to operate at any level of the spectrum immediately, with organic sustainment, in a Joint or combined force environment.

Four interrelated supporting operational concepts characterize our approach to projecting power and influence ashore:

***Operations Other Than War:*** This operation is in many ways the historic, primary role of expeditionary naval forces. This is the day-to-day peacetime forward presence that is fundamental to crisis prevention, dissuasion, and engagement. It includes the myriad activities that forward-deployed naval forces can execute: humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, military training, noncombatant evacuations, and a host of supporting functions.

***Operations from a Seabase:*** recognizes that force protection issues, limitations on forward basing and host nation support potential anti-access strategies, and other compelling factors, reinforce the importance of the sea as both a maneuver space and haven. The Marine Corps has long exploited both the advantages of that domain and the Navy’s mastery of it, so that together we can assure access for Joint force commanders.

***Ship to Objective Maneuver*** is the rapid employment of the MAGTF by air and surface means from amphibious shipping or a sea-base to objectives in the littorals and beyond. This affords vastly increased force protection, tremendous operational mobility and tactical flexibility, and the opportunity to achieve degrees of speed and surprise impossible in past expeditionary operations.

***Sustained Operations Ashore*** recognizes that Marines must be prepared to conduct extended, sustained operations ashore either independently or in a Joint or combined environment.

### ***Marine Corps Position***

Expeditionary Maneuver Warfare establishes a comprehensive framework for the Marine Corps to build upon to transform current capabilities to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Achieving the full promise of this concept will require the continued development of improved capabilities in speed, stealth, and precision — which the Marine Corps has always valued, but now underlie our path to the future.

